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Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
----------161019Z 089221 /21
P R 160740Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5046
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS:
SUBJ: INVITATIONAL SCREENING OF "CUCKOO'S NEST"

1. EMBASSY'S FIRST IN-HOUSE PROGRAM TOOK PLACE WITH TWO INVITATIONAL SCREENINGS OF "ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST" JUNE 10 AND 13 FOR GDR OFFICIALS, ACADEMICIANS, WRITERS, JOURNALISTS, ARTISTS AND DIPLOMATS. ABOUT SIXTY CAME FOR BOTH SCREENINGS. MOST NOTEWORTHY ATTENDANCE FROM DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS FROM SOVIET EMBASSY WHICH INCLUDED AMBASSADOR ABRASSIMOV, DCM, PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELORS. EXCEPT FOR ROMANIAN (WHO PROBABLY WAS BUSY WITH CEAUSCU VISIT), ALL EAST EUROPEAN CULTURAL ATTACHES ALSO ATTENDED. MFA SENT ONLY TWO REPRESENTATIVES, ONE OF WHOM WAS US DESK OFFICER SOON ENROUTE TO NEW POST IN WASHINGTON, WHILE ALMOST ALL WRITERS - HEYM, HERMLIN, BECKER, MUELLER, WOLFF -
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CAME.

2. REACTION OF OVERSHELMING MAJORITY ATTENDEES WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, ECHOING INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT IT A POWERFUL AND MOVING STATEMENT. BULGARIAN CULTATT, WHO AMONG VERY FEW WHO SPOKE NO ENG-LIST, NEVERTHELESS UNDERSTOOD FILM'S SIGNIFICANCE AND SAID IT WAS REGRETTFUL "CUCKOO" COULD NOT HAVE BEEN US CONTRIBUTION TO VARNA

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FILM FESTIVAL. WHILE ABRASSIMOV SAID FILM WAS INTERSTING AND
LEFT SOON THEREAFTER, SOVIET PRESS COUNSELOR SAGATELYAN, TOUGH
HARD-LINER OF IZVESTIYA-TASS-NOVOSTI SCHOOL, TERMED FILM
"ONE WHOSE MESSAGE IS VERY CLEAR AND WORTH THINKING ABOUT; IT IS
ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AMERICAN FILMS I HAVE EVER SEEN."

3. HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY RECTOR AND MOST INTELLECTUALS AGREED THAT
HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM WERE WHAT "CUCKOO" IS ALL ABOUT.
SEVERAL ARTISTS WISHED THE FILM WOULD BE PURCHASED BY THE GDR BUT
EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT IT WOULD BE, ALTHOUGH CHRISTA WOLFF SAID
THAT IN HER VIEW THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR OF SHOWING SO
ALLEGORICAL A FILM. HEYM AND HERMLIN WERE ECSTATIC AND SAID IT
WAS WELL WORTH WAITING FOR. JUREK BECKER, WHO HAD ALREADY SEEN
FILM TWICE IN WEST GERMANY, AND CONTINUES THINK IT STUNNING
ACHIEVEMENT, WONDERED IF AMERICANS SAW IN IT WHAT EAST EUROPEANS
DID. HE ALSO BROUGHT A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ACTOR MANFRED
KRUG WHO REGRETTED NOT BEING ABLE TO COME BECAUSE HE WAS
PACKING FOR HIS VOLUNTARY PERMANENT DEPARTURE FROM THE GDR ON
JUNE 20. PLAYWRIGHT HEINER MUELLER MADE THE SARDONIC COMMENT
THAT "CUCKOO" WAS THE BEST CZECH FILM HE HAD EVER SEEN.

4. DURING POST-SCREENING RECEPTIONS ON BOTH NIGHTS, ALL
PRESENT EXPRESSED DELIGHT AT OPPORTUNITY VIEW AMERICAN FILMS
AND ENCOURAGED EMBASSY PURSUE FILM PROGRAMMING ON CONTINUING
BASIS. JULY SCREENING OF "SILENT MOVIE" WELCOMED ENTHUSIASTI-
CALLY. WHILE NOT EVERYONE INVITED CAME, WE HAVE GOOD REASON
BELIEVE EVERY INVITATION RECEIVED. GOVERNMENTAL INVITATIONS
WERE DELIVERED TO APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL OFFICES, WHILE ALL
OTHERS WERE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO HOMES, NEWSPAPER
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OFFICES, INSTITUTES, THREATRES AND THE UNIVERSITY. SEVERAL
EAST GERMAN SOURCES INDICATED MONDAY IS NOT GOOD
EVENING FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMS SINCE THIS IS STANDARD
DAY FOR SED LOCAL-LEVEL MEETINGS, AND THEY SUGGESTED
WE PICK OTHER EVENINGS FROM NOW ON.

5. IMV REQUESTED ADVISE ONWARD SHIPMENT "CUCKOO'S NEST".POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN06302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-0134
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770652/aaaabtcb.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2411077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2134906
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Subject: INVITATIONAL SCREENING OF \"CUCKOO\'S NEST\"
TAGS: SCUL, SOPN, GC
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vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2411077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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